

A communication from Mr. Haldeman, intended for publication in the new series of the Journal of the Academy, entitled "Descriptions of Coleoptera, chiefly in the cabinet of J. L. Le Conte, M. D.," was read, and referred to the following committee: Dr. Leidy, Mr. Townsend, and Dr. Pickering.

Dr. Leidy requested permission, which was given, to change the name of a new genus of Entozoa, described by him in Vol. 3, No. 5 of the Proceedings, from that of *Cryptobia* to *Cryptoicus*, the former name having been pre-occupied.

By permission of the Society, reports were presented by committees on papers by Dr. Gibbes, of South Carolina, Dr. J. L. Le Conte, of New York, and Dr. Joseph Leidy, read at recent meetings of the Society, recommending the same for publication in the Journal. The Reports were adopted.

Stated Meeting, August 10, 1847.

Vice President MORTON in the Chair.

DONATIONS TO MUSEUM.

Fifty-seven specimens of shells, of the following genera, presented by Dr. Wilson:

Dolium, 1; Ostrea, 13; Aspergillum, 1; Chama, 1; Alasmodontia, 2; Unio, 1; Anodonta, 1; Mesodesma, 1; Sanguinolaria, 2; Pholas, 4; Solen, 3; Glauconome, 1; Cytherea, 5; Venus, 1; Solecurtis, 1; Pinna, 5; Circe, 1; Mactra, 1; Vullcella; Pecten, 3; Cardita, 2; Trigonella, 1; Modiola, 1; Arca, 3; Monoceros, 1; Psammobia, 1.

Mr. Conrad presented six specimens of shells of the genera Corbula, Cardita, Pecten, Cardium, Astarte and Ostrea.

Mr. Cassin presented a collection of African shells, and also a specimen of Unio Nicklinianus.

A number of shells from the Sandwich Islands. Presented by Mr. Gambel.

Egg of *Rhea Americana*. From Miss Griffith.

Eggs of *Cassicus hæmorrhous*? *C. icteronotus*, *Tinamus*, (two species;) *Opisthocomus cristatus*, *Tantalus loculator*, *Cyracus*, *Crotophaga major*, *Ardea alba*, *A. herodias*, *Crax allector*, *Psophia crepitans*, *Rallus* —, *Platalea ajaja*, *Sterna cyanea*, *Charadrius* —? Also, one egg of a Cheilonian, and one of a Saurian. Presented by Mr. Wm. H. Edwards of New York.

Six specimens of fossils from the clay near Baltimore, and a collection of Silurian fossils. From Mr. Wm. S. Pease, of New York.

Anhydrous peroxide of Iron, from York county, Pennsylvania. Presented by Prof. Johnson.

DONATIONS TO LIBRARY.

Practical Geology and Mineralogy, with instructions for the qualitative analysis of minerals. By Joshua Trimmer, F. G. S. 8vo. From Dr. Griffith, in exchange.

Dizionario botanico-Italiano che compende i nomi volgari Italiani specialimenti Toscani a Vernacoli delle piante raccolti da diversi autori e dalla gente di campagnacol corrispondente Latino Botanico compilatio dal dottore Ottaviano Targioni Tozzetti. 8vo. Firenze, 1825. From the same.

The fables of Æsop, part 2d: in the Chinese language. From Mr. John Morrison, of New York, through Dr. Watson.

Agricultural Botany: an enumeration and description of useful plants and weeds which merit the notice, or require the attention of American agriculturists. By Wm. Darlington, M. D. 12mo. Philadelphia, 1847. From the Author.

American Quarterly Journal of Agriculture and Science; conducted by Dr. E. Emmons and A. Osborn: Vol. 1. No. 2; Vol. 2, No. 1; Vol. 3, No. 1; Vol. 4, No. 1. From the Editors, in compliance with a request from the Society. Same work, for July, 1847. From the Editors.

The following valuable works were deposited by Dr. Wilson :
North American Herpetology ; or a description of the reptiles inhabiting the United States. By John Edwards Holbrook, M. D. 5 vols. 4to. Philadelphia, 1842.

Memoirs of the Geological Survey of Great Britain, and of the Museum of Economic Geology in London. Vol. 1. 8vo. London, 1846.

The London Geological Journal, No. 1, Sept. 1846.

The Quarterly Journal of the London Geological Society, Vols. 1 and 2, and No. 1, Vol. 3.

Abbildungen neuer oder unvollständig bekanntner Amphibien, nach der Natur oder dem Leben entworfen, herausgegeben und mit einem erläuterten Texte begleitet von Dr. H. Schlegel. 1 vol. 8vo. and Atlas, folio. Düsseldorf, 1837—1844.

Essai sur la Physionomie des Serpens : par H. Schlegel. 2 vols. 8vo., and Atlas, folio. La Haye, 1847.

Physical description of New South Wales and Van Diemen's land. By P. E. De Strzelecki. 1 vol. 8vo. London, 1845.

Voyage a Méroé, au Fluve blanc au delà de Fâzoql dans le midi du royaume de Sennâr, a Syouah et dans cinq autres oasis : fait dans les années 1819, '21 '22. Par M. Frédéric Caillaud, de Nantes. 4 vols. 8vo., and Atlas, 2 vols. folio.

The Medals of Creation : or first lessons in Geology, and in the study of organic remains. By Gideon A. Mantell, F. R. S. 2 vols. 12mo.. London, 1846.

Geological excursions round the Isle of Wight, and along the adjacent coast of Dorsetshire. 1 vol. 8vo. London, 1846.

Histoire naturelle des Animaux sans vertèbres. Par. J. B. P. A. De Lamarck. 10th edition. 11 vols. 8vo. London 1833 to 1845.

The Old Red Sandstone : or new walks in an old field. By Hugh Miller. 2d edition. 1 vol. 12mo. Edinburgh, 1842.

The British Miscellany. By James Sowerby, F. L. S. 12 numbers : Also the *Malacological and Conchological Magazine*, conducted by Geo. B. Sowerby, F. L. S. 2 Nos.: the whole bound in one volume, 8vo.

The Book of the great Sea-Dragons, Ichthyosauri and Plesiosauri, &c., with 30 plates copied from skeletons in the author's collection of fossil organic remains, (deposited in the British Museum.) By Thomas Hawkins, Esq., F. G. S. Folio. London. 1840.

A letter was read from Dr. C. Hering, of Philadelphia, dated July 31, 1847, in reference to a Museum of Natural History in Leipzig, under the direction of Prof. Pöppig, and asking on behalf of the latter, whether, and in what mode, certain objects of Natural History of this country could be procured for the same. Referred to the Zoological Committee.

The following communication was read from Mr. Wm. S. Pease, of N. Y., containing some remarks on the localities whence the fossils presented by him this evening were obtained :

“The basin of the Chesapeake and its tributaries, the Patapsco, Gunpowder, and other rivers, drain a vast number of shallow vallies, which have been rendered such by filling up with clay, mostly blue, sometimes variegated, containing stone, iron ore in nodular masses with lignite and sulphuret of Iron. Near Baltimore the ore is very abundant, whilst the pyrites and lignite are predominant lower down. The whole rests upon hornblende rocks. This clay is often intercalated with ferruginous sands and gravel. These gravels often unite and form a hard conglomerate rock, as the “White rocks” in the mouth of Patapsco river. The whole deposit is irregular in thickness, enlarging at some points and thinning off very much in others; varying much also in color and consistency. It is always, however, highly ferruginous in its composition, with one exception, and that in the case of a deep leaden or black colored clay, which, upon calcination, becomes white. Hayden, in his Geological Essays, speaks of lignite having been found in this strata with shark's teeth, &c., (doubtful.) The fossils accompanying this were found in a thin vein passing through the above clay formation, which enlarges very much near the city of Baltimore, and forms the hill known as Telegraph or Federal Hill, associated with lignite and sulphuret of Iron. Cucullias have been found at Bear creek, (emptying into the Patapsco) 5 or 6 miles from Baltimore, partly composed of earthy blue Phosphate of Iron. They were thrown out of an excavation for a well about 25 feet deep. With these, other fossil traces

were recognized, but they were not sufficiently distinct to be referred to any class.

These vegetable impressions I would refer to the *Henopteris* or *Glossopteris*, and are new.

In the Geological Report of the State, this formation is placed below the Tertiary."

The Chairman read a letter from Dr. Jeffries Wyman, dated Boston, Aug. 5, 1847, enclosing sketches of crania of a male and female supposed new species of *Orang*, inhabiting Western Africa, brought to this country by Dr. Thomas S. Savage. Information on the subject was requested from the Society.

Dr. Morton read a portion of a memoir designed for publication in the Journal, "On the position of the Ear in the statuary and paintings of the civilized nations of antiquity;" which was referred to a Committee consisting of Mr. Gliddon, Dr. Pickering and Dr. Wilson.

Dr. Leidy presented an instance of a curious optical illusion arising from a peculiarity in the structure of the intervertebral substance of man. He stated the external third of each disk to be composed of concentric layers of non-elastic or white fibrous tissue, the fibres of which are oblique, those of the alternate layers crossing each other. This arrangement, when viewed from either side, gives rise to the appearance of alternating layers of white fibrous tissue, indicated by its shining whiteness and opacity, and of cartilage, indicated by its semi-transparency and dulness, and this is actually stated to be the arrangement in anatomical works generally, and even in the late and very excellent *Physiological Anatomy* of Messrs. Todd and Bowman.

The illusion is well marked: if a disk be held side-ways in the hand, and pins be stuck in what seem to be the alternating layers of cartilage, and then viewed from the other side, the pins will actually appear to have changed their position from the cartilage to the fibrous layers.

Dr. L. explained the illusion by supposing it to be produced in the one case from the rays of light reflected from the numerous points of the fibres, when the eye is opposed to them, giving rise to a divided, and consequently white, opaque surface, while in the other direction, the rays of light being partly transmitted by the extremities of the fibres, give rise to the characteristic dulness and semitransparency of cartilage.

By permission of the Society, a report was received from the Committee on Prof. Haldeman's paper, containing description of new Coleopterous Insects of the United States, recommending the same for publication in the new series of the Journal. The report was adopted.

Stated Meeting, August 17, 1847.

VICE PRESIDENT MORTON in the Chair.

DONATIONS TO MUSEUM.

Nests of *Cassicus icteronotus*, and of *C. hemorrhous*. From Mr. Wm. H. Edwards, of New York.

A collection of Reptilia, in spirits. From Mr. Amory Edwards.
Fine specimen of crystallized Sulphate of Strontian. Presented by Dr. Wilson.

Native grains of Platinum. Presented by Dr. Joseph Leidy.
Mounted specimen of *Argus giganteus*. From Mr. Richard Oakford.

DONATIONS TO LIBRARY.

Essai de Formules botaniques, representant les caractères des plantes par des signes analytiques qui remplacent les phrases descriptives, &c. Par N. E. Seringe et Guillard. 4to. Paris: 1836. From Dr. R. E. Griffith.

Histoire naturelle drolatique et philosophique des Professeurs du Jardin des Plantes, &c. Par Isid. S. De Gosse. 12mo. Paris, 1847. From the same.

The following were also received from Dr. Griffith, in exchange:—

Voyages d'un Naturaliste, &c. Par M. E. Descourtilz. 3 vols. 8vo. Paris, 1809.

A Narrative of four voyages to the South Seas, Pacific Ocean, &c., &c., from the year 1822 to 1831. By Capt. Benjamin Morrell. 8vo. New York, 1832.